

# Continuing Professional Education Credit Through Financial Articles

by Colonel Maryetta D. Pesola

Last quarter I talked about Continuing Professional Education (CPE) giving you some examples of what it was and how to calculate CPE. Finally, I said we were developing some articles for The Air Force Comptroller magazine and the SAF/FM Home Page that would qualify for CPE credit. This quarter I will address The Air Force Comptroller magazine, the quiz, CPE credit, and financial articles.

The July issue of The Air Force Comptroller had some really good articles about contingencies, fuels, and, of course, CPE. Here was an opportunity to learn not only about real world contingencies but also what problems (ref: fuels) could occur without proper planning. However, if you are like me, I find I remember things if they are reenforced through discussion or a quiz. Since other professional organizations produce magazines, give quizzes, and CPE credit (some at a cost), why shouldn't we do the same with The Air Force Comptroller magazine. I decided to take the first four July 1999 articles and develop questions for the Internet. With the help of Mr Bill Raines, our webmaster, the computer was programmed to evaluate the answers. If we were successful and aced the Financial Challenge then a certificate would give us CPE credits.

I presented the questions to Mr Hale and Mr Speer (no, I'm not going to say how many they got right or wrong) and they liked the idea. After much discussion, we came up with a certificate format and determined CPE hours for the first Financial Challenge. Because we want flexibility and don't know how many articles we will have at any given time, we decided each certificate will document the hours. Also, we want to be able to put articles on the web page that may never appear in The Air Force Comptroller magazine. As a result, we decided to let the certificate reflect the CPE credit hours. People taking the Financial Challenge on the four articles for July will receive three CPE credits.



Now for the good part. We decided to test and reinforce financial articles in a different way than is normally done. We would use a format similar to the Reader's Digest Power Words where you pick your answer and then check yourself. At the end of the quiz, we will supply you the correct answer and where in the article you could find the answer. Once you have completed the quiz, you press submit and receive your certificate for the CPE credit. You will then document your CPE credit on the Financial Management Continuing Professional Education Reporting form and maintain the certificate with the form as proof of completion.

Sounds good, but where do you find the articles and quiz? Hopefully, most of this is old news for you, but if you haven't taken the Financial Challenge for last quarter, go to SAF/FM Home Page at



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www.saffm.hq.af.mil, click on Profess Develop and then click on Comptroller Articles. This should bring up the Continuing Professional Education page. By clicking on Comptroller Articles for Third Quarter you will have the information to test yourself. Clicking on 3rd Quarter Comptroller Magazine will bring the quiz up and enable you to see how well you understood the articles. Don't forget to click on the Submit button to get your certificate. Another way is to read a hard copy of The Air Force Comptroller magazine. In the future, we will identify The Air Force Comptroller magazine articles for credit by including an icon  and a statement under the title until people get use to recognizing the  icon with the Financial Challenge. Once you have read The Air Force Comptroller magazine, you will have to go to the web page to take the quiz and get the credit certificate.

To make this work, we need to have a continuous supply of Comptroller articles for either The Air Force Comptroller magazine or for publishing on the web page. We have recently sent topics to the MAJCOM/FOA/DRU FMs asking for assistance. I've provided a partial list below to give you an idea of topics, maybe there is one you would like to write that isn't on the list, e.g., what is the comptroller's role prior, during, and after a hurricane, etc. For every hour spent writing a financial article which is published in either The Air Force Comptroller magazine or on the web page you can earn one CPE hour.

#### Example Web Page/The Air Force Comptroller Articles

Color of Money  
Prompt Payment Act  
Solving the Receiving Report Dilemma  
Buying Through Army Contracting  
Integrity Act  
Defense Working Capital Funds  
Reimbursements—Getting All You Can Get  
Military Overpayments—How to Prevent Them  
What are FM Corps Competencies  
Preparing for Top Dollar  
Activity-Based Cost Management  
Budget & Accounting Connection  
Earned Value Management

Federal Financial Statement Audits  
Incentive Contracts  
Addressing Problem Disbursements  
Budget Formulation  
Lease Vs Buy Considerations  
Representation Funds—Why Bother  
A-76 Cost Comparison—Common Mistakes  
Dealing With Foreign Currencies  
Why Quarterly Funding Authority  
Preventing a Robbery Safely



## About the Author



Colonel Maryetta D. Pesola is the Principal Assistant for Finance, SAF/FMP. She has a BS from Ohio State University in Business Administration and a MS in Information Management from the State University of New York, Binghamton. Her active duty experience includes audit, cost analysis, and comptroller. Col Pesola was the Comptroller at Pope AFB NC and Osan AB KS. She is a member of the American Society of Military Comptrollers.



## About the Author (Continued From Page 5)

Capt Dan Sheesley enlisted in the Air Force in 1990. His first assignment was at RAF Bentwaters/Woodbridge UK. Selected for OTS in the financial management career field he reported to Yokota AB JA as the Deputy Chief, Financial Analysis and later as the Financial Services Officer. His next assignment was RAF Mildenhall UK, as Chief, Financial Analysis. On 12 April 1999, he reported to Einsiedlerhof AS GE, as the JTF SHINING HOPE Comptroller. He spent the next two-and-a-half months between Germany and Rinas AS, Albania, tracking funds, validating expenses, and providing funding guidance for the JTF Commander and Staff. He left RAF Mildenhall in July 1999 and is currently assigned to Sheppard AFB as an instructor and Chief, Financial Management Staff Officer Course.

